

Sanders
Schatz
Schumer
Shaheen
Sinema

Smith
Stabenow
Tester
Van Hollen
Warner

Warnock
Warren
Whitehouse
Wyden

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53,
nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 149 Ex.]

YEAS—53

NAYS—45

Barrasso
Blackburn
Blunt
Boozman
Braun
Burr
Capito
Cassidy
Cornyn
Cotton
Cramer
Crapo
Cruz
Daines
Ernst

Fischer
Graham
Hagerty
Hawley
Hoeven
Hyde-Smith
Inhofe
Johnson
Kennedy
Lankford
Lee
Marshall
McConnell
Moran
Murkowski

Paul
Portman
Risch
Romney
Rubio
Sasse
Scott (FL)
Scott (SC)
Shelby
Sullivan
Thune
Toomey
Tuberville
Wicker
Young

Baldwin
Bennet
Blumenthal
Booker
Brown
Cantwell
Cardin
Carper
Casey
Collins
Coons
Cortez Masto
Duckworth
Durbin
Feinstein
Gillibrand
Graham
Hassan

Heinrich
Hickenlooper
Hirono
Kaine
Kelly
King
Klobuchar
Leahy
Lujan
Manchin
Markey
Menendez
Merkley
Murphy
Murray
Ossoff
Padilla
Peters

Portman
Reed
Rosen
Sanders
Schatz
Schumer
Shaheen
Sinema
Smith
Stabenow
Tester
Van Hollen
Warner
Warnock
Warren
Whitehouse
Wyden

NOT VOTING—2

Rounds

Tillis

The nomination was confirmed.
The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 53, Brenda Mallory, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Council on Environmental Quality.

Charles E. Schumer, Ron Wyden, Maria Cantwell, Richard J. Durbin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Jeanne Shaheen, Tim Kaine, Angus S. King, Jr., Tammy Duckworth, John Hickenlooper, Gary C. Peters, Brian Schatz, Patty Murray, Tina Smith, Mazie Hirono, Sheldon Whitehouse, Alex Padilla.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Brenda Mallory, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Council on Environmental Quality, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any Senators in the Chamber wishing to vote or to change their vote?

Barrasso
Blackburn
Blunt
Boozman
Braun
Burr
Capito
Cassidy
Cornyn
Cotton
Cramer
Crapo
Cruz
Daines
Ernst

NAYS—45

Fischer
Grassley
Hagerty
Hawley
Hoeven
Hyde-Smith
Inhofe
Johnson
Kennedy
Lankford
Lee
Lummis
Marshall
McConnell
Moran

Murkowski
Paul
Risch
Romney
Rubio
Sasse
Scott (FL)
Scott (SC)
Shelby
Sullivan
Thune
Toomey
Tuberville
Wicker
Young

NOT VOTING—2

Rounds

Tillis

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 45.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Brenda Mallory, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Council on Environmental Quality.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

NOMINATION OF BRENDA MALLORY

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, the Senate has now invoked cloture on the nomination of Brenda Mallory, President Biden's nominee to serve as the Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality. First, let me just say thank you. I want to express my thanks to—and I am sure, on behalf of Brenda Mallory—53 Senators who voted in favor of cloture so that we can move forward and now debate her nomination. We thank each Senator who cast that supporting vote. But I rise in support of Ms. Mallory's nomination to this important position. This is a position a lot of folks have never heard of, but it is a hugely important one. And I urge our colleagues to now join me in supporting, in confirmation, a highly, highly qualified nominee as well.

The Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality—or CEQ, as we call it—may not be the first position many Americans think about when they consider consequential Presidential appointments. But it is a crucial body—critical body—with considerable sway over our Nation's health and environment.

One of my mentors was a Republican named Russ Peterson, a great leader of the DuPont company for many years, Governor of Delaware, and later served as Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality during the administrations of both Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford.

Governor Peterson used to refer to his role as Chair at the Council on Environmental Quality as similar to that of an orchestra leader, an orchestra conductor. He said: You don't play the instruments as the Chair of the CEQ, but you try hard to ensure that everyone in the orchestra is playing in harmony. The CEQ Chair coordinates action across the entire government in order to ensure that Federal Agencies are working in harmony and that every Federal decision advances the objectives of economic growth, of better public health, and of stronger environmental quality.

While CEQ Chairs do work much like an orchestra leader, a conductor, to achieve harmony across Federal Agencies, they must also pursue balance. That balance includes at least three components: one, growing our economy; two, ensuring a just and healthy society; and, three, protecting our environment for current and future generations. Those are the clear objectives of CEQ as laid out in the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, known as NEPA, the landmark law that created CEQ, often referred to as “the Magna Carta of environmental laws.”

According to its six pages of statute, NEPA's purpose includes—and I am going to quote—“efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of man.” I would add “and woman.” NEPA enshrines democracy by giving the American people a voice to help decide the fate of Federal decisions. For 50 years, NEPA has sought to ensure environmental protection, public health, and the notion that the American people should have a say in the Federal decision-making process that affects their lives.

Like our Constitution, NEPA is one of our Nation's most enduring and replicated laws. The same principles of democracy and citizen participation enshrined in our Constitution are also enshrined in NEPA.

Sadly, the Trump administration's CEQ largely walked away from the tenets of this 50-year-old law, issuing drastic rollbacks that undermine much of its very mission. Instead of advancing the CEQ's three objectives—one, a more productive economy; two, a healthier society; and three, a cleaner environment—the previous administration sadly repeatedly compromised public health and environmental quality for the sake of less redtape.

So one of the many tasks ahead for the next CEQ Chair will be to get us back on track—to harmonize our efforts to address the climate crisis, safeguard public health, and ensure that

we are treating others the way we want to be treated. If that sounds familiar, it should because that is the Golden Rule, which is found in every major religion on this planet.

There are few people as well qualified to tackle this challenge as Brenda Mallory. I believe that she is the kind of experienced, dedicated public servant that we need to lead CEQ at this critical time, not just for the Agency but for our Nation.

Ms. Mallory is a deeply committed public servant with extensive experience under both Democratic and Republican administrations. No stranger to CEQ, Ms. Mallory served there for a number of years after an impressive tenure of more than a decade at EPA, including under President George W. Bush. She has earned respect from both sides of the aisle, and, as the former General Counsel for CEQ, she already knows the Agency inside and out.

Her experience and her reputation as a collaborative, pragmatic leader help to explain why she has garnered broad bipartisan support among environmental leaders who have served before her. Get this—13 past Republican CEQ and EPA appointees, including a former CEQ Chair, and 4 different Republican EPA Administrators have publicly praised Ms. Mallory and urged her confirmation. Now, that doesn't happen every day, as the Presiding Officer knows. But among those former Republican EPA Administrators who have urged her confirmation are these: Bill Reilly, Christine Todd Whitman, Michael Leavitt, Stephen Johnson, and James Connaughton.

Ms. Mallory has also earned the support of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. I will say that again. Ms. Mallory also earned the support of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce—and a whole bushel of environmental groups across this land.

She has represented business interests in the past as an attorney in private practice, so she understands the importance of timely and well-coordinated environmental reviews, which are crucial for getting investments in telecommunications and in infrastructure off the ground.

Ms. Mallory's expertise will be critical to the task that lies ahead. In addition to restoring balance at CEQ and its mission, the next Chair at CEQ will address a number of pressing crises facing our Nation today. Let me mention some of them. They include the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and they include the worst economy since the Great Depression, as well as the enduring problem and challenge of racial injustice. All three—all three of these crises are compounded by a fourth, and that is the climate crisis.

We have no time to waste. We must tackle the climate crisis with conviction and with urgency. My home State of Delaware, which I am privileged to represent, certainly cannot wait any longer. We happen to be the lowest lying State in America. Our State is sinking, and the seas around us are rising.

This is felt by other States across the country too. Climate change is an issue that hits red States and blue States alike. Our colleagues JOHN NEELY KENNEDY and BILL CASSIDY, from Louisiana, tell me that Louisiana loses—get this—a football field of wetlands to rising sea levels every 100 minutes.

Let me mention that again. Louisiana loses a football field of wetlands to rising sea levels every 100 minutes. In another part of the country, the midwestern part of the country, last year, hurricane-force winds flattened over half—over half of the corn and soybean crop in Iowa, literally in the span of about a week, maybe even in a span of about a day.

Out on the west coast, wildfires raged across California as big as the size of Rhode Island, while floods in Florida damaged homes, and roads and deadly ice storms a month or two ago left millions in Texas stranded without power or water.

Natural disasters and extreme weather don't discriminate; they impact all of us. Brenda Mallory knows this. She understands the gravity of the situation and the immense challenge she has ahead of her, should she be confirmed. I know she is ready to seize the opportunity ahead of her in this role.

She also knows that the laws we write and decisions we make can affect who faces the brunt of the consequences. For too long, communities of color have disproportionately suffered from our environmental policies. From chemical contaminants in drinking water to toxic air pollution from our roads and our factories, our most marginalized citizens are too often exposed to environmental public health risks and left behind by our investments and policies.

We need to work to improve environmental outcomes for all Americans—all Americans. Brenda Mallory at the helm of CEQ can play the leadership role that is needed in addressing environmental justice and meeting the challenges of climate change in a way that will lift up all communities and achieve a brighter, more equitable future for each one of them.

As we address the crises we face, we have an opportunity to improve people's lives today and for future generations. To do that, we need principled, enlightened leaders. We need leaders who are humble, not haughty; leaders who have the heart of a servant and understand that their job is to serve, not be served; leaders who unite, not divide; leaders who build bridges, not walls.

I am confident that Brenda Mallory is just that kind of leader. She will bring integrity. She will bring honor and humility to her role just as she has done in her decades of service to this country. As Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality, she will be a leader who brings people together to form lasting solutions to the challenges that we face today.

With that in mind, I strongly urge each of our colleagues to join me in

supporting her confirmation. I thank again those who voted for cloture a few minutes ago.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

FOR THE PEOPLE ACT

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, it has been just over 2 months since we transferred majority rule to President Biden and the Democrats, and they have made it very clear that not even their most radical policy proposals are up for debate. They just want to push things through. In fact, based on what we have seen, I am willing to go on the record as saying that they see any possibility of defeat as an impermissible challenge to their hold on power, and they have got quite a long enemies' list.

You will recall that, back in 2016, after Donald Trump won the election, liberal activists blamed the electoral college for their many campaign failures.

In 2020, even as the count came down in their favor, the attacks continued. Faced with the possibility of constitutionalist, conservative judicial nominees, the Supreme Court also became a source of righteous panic. In the wake of the 2020 election, activists were quick to demand that their new majority break the structure of the Court and transform it into a rubberstamp for radical policies that don't stand a chance of surviving this Chamber under regular order.

Just this year, when faced with a much slimmer majority than, I am sure, they expected, many of my Democratic colleagues reversed their positions on the filibuster. Suddenly, the procedural backstop so many of them had once vowed to protect—this was an important check against the tyranny of the majority—was, all of a sudden, nothing more than a racist relic of Jim Crow America. So we are left to assume, I suppose, that tyranny started to look pretty good in the face of such a slim majority.

Yet the filibuster isn't the only Senate institution that came under fire. Debate over a Federal minimum wage increase grew so unhinged that many Democrats suggested firing the Parliamentarian and replacing her with someone who was willing to deploy his or her own rubberstamp. Just this week, news broke that Senate Democrats are now toying with the idea of firing the Director of the Congressional Budget Office. For what? For the unpardonable sin of doing his job.

If you don't like the score, fire the scorekeeper. If you don't like the standard, wipe it off the books. If you don't like the institution, just burn it to the ground.

It is a familiar curriculum now reflected in the Democrats' latest effort to demolish and rebuild the country in their own radical image. They call it the For the People Act, but the basic premise of S. 1 is that, in order to secure our elections, we have no choice